THE INAUGURATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOON EASTERN

Today marks the start of the Biden/Harris administration. Subscribers have access to a bonus section highlighting plans for today and the weeks ahead under the 'Transfer of Power' tab at **star-telegram.com/eedition**. And please see our website for the latest news from today.

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E1

Hard-hit ZIP codes will get priority for vaccines

BY BRIAN LOPEZ
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Tarrant County will prioritize vaccinating people in the 10 ZIP codes most affected by coronavirus, officials said Tuesday.

While Tarrant County itself has been the epicenter of COVID-19 in Texas over the past several weeks, health officials hope vaccinating people in these ZIP codes will reduce the outbreak, said Vinny Taneja, the county's public health director. The ZIP codes with the highest case rates the past month are 76177, 76131, 76179, 76040, 76054, 76164, 76182, 76118, 76180 and 76060. People who are 65 or older or have an underlying health condition from these ZIP codes will jump to the front of the line, Taneja said.

As of Tuesday, 45,000 people have been vaccinated in the county with about 290,000 eligible for the vaccine. The ZIP codes with the most vaccinations have been 76126, 76132, 76109, 76129, 76107, 76092, 76304 and 76005.

SEE ZIP CODES, 6A

More funding needed for park project near Tarrant Courthouse

BY LUKE RANKER
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Funding is taking shape to breathe new life into Heritage Park and create a scenic walk from the historic Tarrant County Courthouse down the bluffs of the Trinity River, but more private donations may be needed before the downtown Fort Worth park becomes reality.

Andy Taft, president of Downtown Fort Worth Inc., said Tuesday about $17.6 million has been identified to revitalize the Heritage Park Plaza water features, create a plaza in Paddock Park north of the courthouse and improve pedestrian access. Some of that money has not been fully allocated, he said. The project, which includes a fountain north of the courthouse and a grand staircase down the bluff, is expected to require about $40 million with construction estimated at less than $30 million.

SEE HERITAGE PARK, 2A

Biden arrives in Washington with big plans, big problems

EVAN VUCCI AP

President-elect Joe Biden stands with his wife, Jill Biden, after speaking at the Major Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III National Guard/Reserve Center on Tuesday in New Castle, Delaware. They later traveled to Washington, a city heavily guarded for the inauguration Wednesday.

BY BILL BARROW AND AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, DEL.

President-elect Joe Biden made a sober entrance to the nation's capital Tuesday, ready to assume power as America reels from the coronavirus pandemic, soaring unemployment and grave concerns about more violence as he prepares to take the oath of office.

Biden, an avid fan of Amtrak, had planned to take a train into Washington ahead of Wednesday's Inauguration Day, but scratched that plan in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

He instead flew into a military airbase just outside the capital on Tuesday afternoon and then arrived by motorcade in fortress D.C. – a city that's been flooded by about 25,000 National Guard troops guarding a Capitol, White House and National Mall that are wrapped in a maze of barricades and tall fencing.

Shortly before Biden departed for Washington, the U.S. reached another grim milestone in the pandemic, surpassing 400,000 deaths from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"These are dark times," Biden told dozens of supporters in an emotional sendoff in Delaware before departing for Washington. "But there's always light."

Biden, who ran for the presidency as a cool head who could get things done, plans to issue a series of executive orders on Day One – including reversing President Donald Trump's effort to leave the Paris climate accord, canceling his travel ban on visitors from several predominantly Muslim countries, and extending pandemic-era limits on evictions and student loan payments.

SEE BIDEN, 3A

How to watch

Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States at noon EST on Wednesday, and Kamala Harris will take the oath of office for vice president. The inauguration ceremony will be held on the U.S. Capitol's West Front. Afterward, the new president is expected to deliver an inaugural address.

Remote viewers can watch on the Presidential Inaugural Committee's website or on its YouTube channel, Facebook page, Twitter or Twitch.

Major news networks will broadcast the inauguration live. Most will have a stream available online or on their social media pages.

Sony Pictures Classic gets distribution rights for Fort Worth Mighty Mites movie

BY DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
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FORT WORTH

The new inspirational football movie about Fort Worth's Mighty Mites called "12 Mighty Orphans" has been acquired for worldwide distribution by Sony Pictures Classics, according to a report in Variety.

The movie stars Luke Wilson, Martin Sheen, Vinessa Shaw and Robert Duvall.

The project was directed by Ty Roberts, and other stars include Wayne Knight, Jake Austin Walker, Treat Williams, Ron White and Scott Haze.

"There is a reason underdog stories hold so much weight in the popular imagination, and we know the Mighty Mites' true story of triumph over adversity — set in a time when much of the country was suffering — will lift the spirits of audiences worldwide," according to a statement released by Sony Pictures Classics and reported by Variety. "We are excited to work with Ty on what promises to be an emotional and life-affirming film."

The movie is set in the Great Depression at Fort Worth's Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, where 12 scrawny orphans and a Texas football coach became champions.

Based on the book "Twelve Mighty Orphans" by Jim Dent, the movie was filmed in Fort Worth in 2019.

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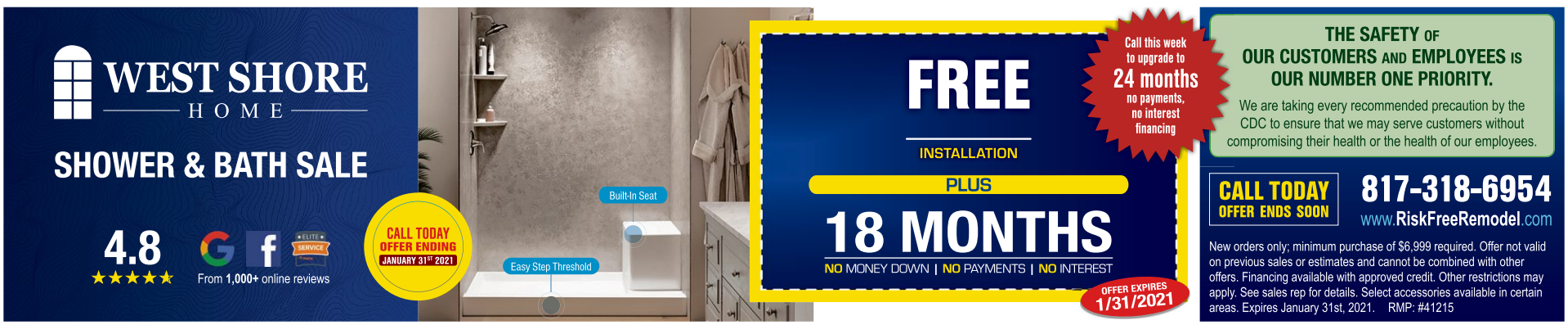
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